

Message Text

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ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 EA-09 ISO-00 CIAE-00 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 ERDA-07

ACDA-10 OMB-01 IO-11 OES-05 /100 W

----- 081234

R 110049Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1036

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

CINCPAC

DIA WASHDC

UNCLAS WELLINGTON 0931

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MARR, MNUC, PINT, NZ

SUBJ: NPW VISITS - CLAIM AND COUNTER-CLAIM

REF: WELLINGTON 0880 (DTG 090028Z MAR 76)

1. PRESS BATTLE BETWEEN PM MULDOON AND OPPOSITION LEADER ROWLING CONTINUED MARCH 9 AND 10 WITH MULDOON ACCUSING ROWLING OF "NOT TELLING THE TRUTH" WITH REGARD TO LABOUR PARTY'S POLICY ON NPW VISITS. ROWLING HAS TAKEN POSITION THAT "THE PRIME MINISTER HAS GOT HIMSELF INTO A FAIR SORT OF A MESS ON THIS SITUATION AND HE'S LOOKING TO CREATE SOME KIND OF A DIVERSION."

2. IN TAKING THE OFFENSIVE, MULDOON CLAIMED ROWLING, WHEN PRIME MINISTER, HAS HAD AMPLE WARNING OF THE CONSEQUENCE TO THE ANZUS ALLIANCE OF BANNING NPWS FROM NEW ZEALAND PORTS. MULDOON CITED A REPORT TO ROWLING FROM THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE AS WELL AS A BRIEFING FROM MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS. MOD REPORT, DATED OCTOBER 6, 1975, WARNED THAT LABOUR GOVERNMENT'S ATTITUDE WAS ALARMING

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PARTNERS "WHO BELIEVE IT IS UNWISE TO TEST THE ANZUS

RELATIONSHIP IN THE MANNER WE (GNZ) APPEAR TO BE GOING. ALREADY AT THE OFFICIAL LEVEL SOME RESERVATIONS IN DEALING WITH US HAVE BEEN NOTICED." MFA BRIEFING NOTE CITED FAILURE OF THEN PRIME MINISTER KIRK TO HAVE SOUTH PACIFIC NUCLEAR WEAPONS FREE ZONE ISSUE INSCRIBED ON AGENDA OF FEBRUARY 1974 ANZUS COUNCIL MEETING.

3. FOR HIS PART, ROWLING STOOD BY PREVIOUS COMMENTS NOTING THAT NO NPW HAD VISITED NEW ZEALAND IN TEN YEARS SHOWING THAT SUCH VISITS WERE NOT ESSENTIAL TO ANZUS. HE ALSO NOTED THAT USG DID NOT VOTE AGAINST SPNWFZ PROPOSAL, "WITH ALL ITS IMPLICATIONS", IN THE UNGA.

4. IN RELATED ANNOUNCEMENT, MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT VENN YOONG HAS STATED GNZ WILL NOT REPEAT NOT REQUIRE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT PRIOR TO NPW VISIT. GNZ WILL SATISFY ITSELF ON ENVIRONMENTAL AND SAFETY ASPECTS OF VISITS BY HAVING ALL DEPARTMENTS CONCERNED REVIEW ARRANGEMENTS AND PROCEDURES.
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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